



“Forging a Brighter Future for Children and Families”

AT THE EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Support for Parents and Family, Friends, and Neighbor Caregivers

Background on the Process for Parent Support

The ELC has received background information and specific cost estimates for a range of program models to support parents with parenting programs, social services, and health screening. In February, 2006 a small group (formed from Kids Matter) compiled profiles of health, parenting, and family support programs as an aid to the Access to High Quality Early Learning Project. These projects were selected as examples of a range of opportunities to support parents and other primary caregivers as children’s first teachers. Subsequently, the ELC convened a panel of presenters at their meeting in April, 2006. The presenters provided the ELC with information on return on investments from various social service models, and the range of current low to high intensity program models in the State of Washington.

Following up on this information, Kip Tokuda (ELC Council Member) created an ad hoc group to develop estimates of parenting support costs. The ad hoc group was convened and staffed by United Way of King County and advised by Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (WCPCAN). The cost estimates were compiled within a few weeks and presented by topic areas. The Steering Committee to the Access to High Quality Early Learning Project reviewed these cost components at their meeting on July 13, 2006. They directed HSPC to add statewide cost estimates to

build the parenting support system and to expand home visiting programs for high risk families. At their meeting on July 18, 2006, the ELC indicated interest in the direct service costs associated with parenting classes, a public communication and outreach effort, and expanded parent information. We included two categories of costs:

- 1) the elements necessary to create a statewide infrastructure to develop and monitor the quality of parent and family education and support services; and
- 2) direct services in the first phase of implementation, with the Steering Committee initially considering the costs of serving communities that represent about 25 percent of families with children birth to age 6.

The Steering Group to the Access for High Quality Early Learning project confirmed the following estimates to reflect their intent and the ELC direction in including support for parents and Family Friends and Neighbors in the Round II analysis.

System Building

Parent Support Advisory Committee. To support ongoing policy development and dialogue, a permanent Parent Support Advisory Committee to the new Department of Early Learning and/ or the Governor would address policy shifts and program issues to ensure that parent support is a fundamental element of early learning policy. This committee would operate in collaboration with or under the leadership of a state level advisory group on all early learning issues (such as the ELC). The annual cost of **\$50,000** estimated for this committee is based on annual costs of the Joint Legislative Mental Health Task Force.

Needs Assessment. The State of Washington has limited data on what types of services and information parents want and need. The one-time cost estimate of **\$200,000** is based on conducting and analyzing a general population survey, similar to the survey of child care in Washington conducted by HSPC, which consisted of 25-minute interviews with parents of young children and included an over-sample of low income parents.

Assessment of Programs, Gaps, and Barriers. Building upon work by WCPCAN, this one year analysis would a) examine existing programs and best practices, b) assess capacity and review outcome measurements, c) assess barriers and gaps in service to meet parents' needs, d) assess data capabilities at the system level, and e) advise on budget priorities. The cost estimate of **\$250,000** is based on program evaluations with a similar scope.

Parent Information, Referrals, and Advice. With three tiers of activity, estimated costs include compiling local data resources, offering referrals to existing services, and expanding existing Parent Trust live hotline support from 40 hours a week to 24 hours/ 7 days per week. Costs of **\$589,263** are based on the staff needed to support each of these functions.

Expanded Child Profile. The Child Profile provides current health information and information on typical child development at intervals prior to recommended immunizations and well-child visits. These summaries are currently mailed by the Washington State Department of Health to 86% of families statewide with children from birth to age 6. An expansion of this program to 100% of families with young children (birth to age 6) is estimated to cost **\$313,550**.

Direct Services

Home Visiting. To estimate the cost of reaching about 25% of families statewide with incomes up to approximately 200% of FPL and with children from birth to age six, the Ad Hoc group averaged costs from three proven program models to serve low income families: Nurse Family Partnership, Parents As Teachers, and the Intensive Parent Training and Support Program. These programs were selected to provide a basis for indicating the range of costs, but other program models could also be used. Based on research from WCPCAN and information from home visiting programs in Oregon, Arizona, and Illinois, HSPC estimates anticipated participation rates of 15% of at risk families within the first two years of implementation. With an average cost of \$4,000 per family, the total phase-in estimate is **\$7,027,800**.

Parenting Classes. Based on a matrix compiled by WCPCAN summarizing a range of program models, and data compiled by the City of Seattle Department of Human Services, HSPC estimated a cost of **\$1,925,024** per year to reach 25% of the families with children from birth to age six with low-intensity parenting classes, similar to those provided by Family Support Centers in the City of Seattle. Based on data from the Family Support Centers in Seattle, we estimated that 20% of the targeted families would take parenting education classes.

Broad Reach Communication. To improve awareness and information among the many families who could benefit from education and support services, it will be useful to employ a combination of mass media and ground-based community communication efforts. To develop a cost estimate for this component, Thrive by Five (or another group with appropriate expertise) will have to conduct an analysis drawing

upon the experience of other states and programs. HSPC will assist this effort if resources are available. Such estimates should be added to the package in the fall when the number and location of communities and media markets will be better known, and the objectives and activities for raising awareness, recruiting participants and delivering message content will have been more fully specified.

Family Friends and Neighbors Support

Child Care Resources (CCR) has implemented promising models to conduct outreach and provide services to Family Friends and Neighbors in King County. Building upon this expertise, a small advisory group convened to compile a budget of recommended strategies to build the system and provide direct services. The budget was based on staff needed to integrate systems and existing services and conduct outreach to reach a proportion of Family Friends and Neighbors. Direct service costs are based on three models: Play and Learn groups (facilitated play groups with adult education and consultation), Ready Set Go bags (providing materials and toys to Family Friends and Neighbors), and Taking Care of Our Children booklets.

The Steering Committee to the Access for High Quality Early Learning Project reviewed these estimates and recommended integrating system building with an emphasis on evaluation. The cost estimates for system-building will need to be reallocated to include funds for evaluation, or additional monies will be needed. To be consistent with the phase-in of other direct services, we have reduced the CCR estimate to reach providers in 25% of the state. This cost amounts to **\$1,146,619** for one-fourth of the state.

We gratefully acknowledge all the following for their cost estimates, program data, and advice:

Child Care Resources, Docs for Tots, Healthy Families America/ Western Division, Kids Matter, Oregon Commission on Children and Families, Ounce of Prevention, United Way of King County, and Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (WCPCAN), and the Washington Department of Health, among many others who contributed to this effort.

Parent Support and Education Budget			
	2007-08	Total 2008-09	Statewide Implementation
Parent Support Infrastructure			
One-time costs			
Survey of Parents Needs	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
System Level Needs Assessment	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Annual costs			
Parent Support Advisory Committee	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Parent Information Referral and Advice			
Line/ Data Base	\$589,263	\$589,263	\$589,263
Child Profile Expansion	\$313,550	\$313,550	\$313,550
Parent Support Direct Service:			
Home-visiting	\$4,216,680	\$7,027,800	\$28,111,200
<i>(15% of families below 1.85 FPL at average of \$4,000)</i>			
Parent Education	\$1,155,015	\$1,925,024	\$7,700,098
<i>(20% of families with children B-6 at average \$234 per family)</i>			
Totals	\$6,774,508	\$10,355,637	\$37,214,111
Inflation-adjusted Totals	\$6,943,870	\$10,873,419	

NOTE: Statewide costs are not adjusted for inflation.

Supports for Family, Friend, and Neighbor Providers

Activity	Description	Annual Cost
Facilitated Play and Learn groups	2 eight-week sessions per year to reach 3500 children	\$2,374,172
Ready, Set, Go Bags	Resources to reach 15% of FFN providers	\$663,750
Taking Care of Children Booklets	A 24 page resource guide with information about health & safety, child development, play & activities, school readiness and a localized resource list. Reach 45% of FFN providers	\$153,420
FFN workshops/support groups	12-week facilitated groups at community-based organizations. Reach 5% of FFN caregivers	\$189,360
System Integration	Integrate support and outreach of FFN into current programs. Develop new programs.	\$332,517
Infrastructure and Support	Staffing for FFN functions and support. Includes awareness, systems integration, coordination, training, technical assistance for community-based organizations wishing to support FFN caregivers	\$872,857
Total Statewide Cost		\$4,586,077
2007-2008 (15%) Inflation-adjusted		\$705,109
2008-2009 (25%) Inflation-adjusted		\$1,203,845